



KERRY THORNLEY
... denies he lied.

15-A

Assassination Probers Charge Tampa Witness

NATIONAL

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NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Kerry W. Thornley, a Marine Corps buddy of Lee Harvey Oswald, was charged yesterday with perjury before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in its Kennedy assassination probe.

Thornley, 29, of Tampa, was accused by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison of lying before the jury when he testified that he had not been with Oswald here in September 1963.

IN TAMPA, Thornley said the perjury charge is "false" and said he has a "feeling of futility about going through the rest of my life bailing myself out of debt over this thing."

He said he probably would not fight extradition and would ask for a public defender to represent him in court.

In response to the charge, Thornley said there is either a conspiracy afoot to "frame me" by someone with a large amount of money, or the Grand Jury was misled by "an overwhelming amount of circum-

stantial coincidences.

MANY WITNESSES, Thornley declared, apparently "deliberately lied" in testifying that they saw him with Oswald in restaurants and other places.

"I have neither the resources, investigative-wise nor legal-wise, to prove that these witnesses were lying," he said. "I feel a comprehensive investigation would clear me."

Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the lone assassin of President John F. Kennedy, was shot to death two days after the assassination in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963.